

3-13-1998

Trends. Injustice through Justice Within the INS and the FBI: Fertile Territory for Information

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Recommended Citation

Editor, IBPP (1998) "Trends. Injustice through Justice Within the INS and the FBI: Fertile Territory for Information," *International Bulletin of Political Psychology*. Vol. 4 : Iss. 10 , Article 5.
Available at: <https://commons.erau.edu/ibpp/vol4/iss10/5>

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Title: Trends. Injustice through Justice Within the INS and the FBI: Fertile Territory for Information
Warfare

Author: Editor

Volume: 4

Issue: 10

Date: 1998-03-13

Keywords: Accusations, Information Warfare, Justice

In the quest for justice, policymakers, legislators, and those who seek to influence them sometimes seek to effect mandatory sequences of adjudicative procedure upon allegations of misbehavior. This often seems to be the case for misbehaviors that--for perceivers to be politically correct-- are judged as unusually debased, bizarre, or threatening, e.g., child sexual abuse, statistically deviant rituals deemed contrary to some national or ethnic character, or espionage. The rationale is that although an alleged perpetrator is allegedly innocent until found guilty, the remotest hint of impropriety should risk subverting protections for the accused in an effort to protect alleged and future victims.

Perhaps this is how it should be in a world of sane, reasonable, and sincere seekers of justice. This is not such a world, however. And in the latter sort of world, unfounded allegations can be made intentionally to damage real and perceived adversaries or competitors--even random targets. The mandatory adjudicative procedures ensure damage, even if the accused are eventually found to be likely misaccused.

In the United States (US), this seems to have been the case during the Salem witch trials--although they occurred before the US had been constituted--numerous lynchings of African-Americans when they were charitably called Negroes, the McCarthy hearings, several legal cases involving alleged and unfounded physical and sexual abuse of children at day care centers, and the transmission of rumors that several individuals within the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) were Soviet moles.

Several recent events may serve as yet other examples. (IBPP does not claim to have definitive knowledge of these events and describes them only as illustrative of the above discussion.) (1) Six Iraqis who worked in a CIA-supported effort to overthrow the Saddam Hussein regime and who then escaped to the US are now being threatened with deportation to Iraq based on secret testimony by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. If the testimony is founded on purposely apocryphal information furnished by adversaries of the Iraqis, justice is being subverted. (2) An employee of the Immigration and Naturalization Service is now under investigation because of accusations that he violated various policies in a previous position. If these accusations are the inventions of Russian nationals who unsuccessfully sought favors from him, justice is being subverted.

In both cases, mandated procedures have been activated and are running their course. In the meantime, targets of what may be spurious allegations must necessarily suffer and be damaged: their utility and efficiency supporting their chosen political objectives attenuated courtesy of the information warrior. (See Bell, D.M. (1997). Innuendo. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 27, 35-59; Wegner, D.M., Wenzlaff, R., Kerker, R. M., & Beattie, A.E. (1981). Incrimination through innuendo: Can media questions become public answers? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 40, 822-832; Weiner, T. (March 11, 1998). Iraqis who worked with C.I.A. may be deported. *The New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com>.) (Keywords: Accusations, Information Warfare, Justice.)